



Atty. Dkt. No. 069818-1602

***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***

Applicant: BAETS et al.  
Title: SEPARATION OF BIOMASS  
FROM LACTIC-ACID  
CONTAINING  
FERMENTATION PRODUCTS  
BY MEANS OF  
FLOCCULATION  
Appl. No.: 10/690,548  
Filing Date: October 23, 2003  
Examiner: Herbert J. Lilling  
Art Unit: 1651  
Confirmation Number: 7955

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed March 02, 2006, Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group I, Claims 1-14, for examination, with traverse.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that the Office has not shown that there would be a serious burden to examine the claims of Groups I-III together. As set forth in MPEP § 803, there must be a serious burden on the Examiner if restriction is required. Because a burden must be shown, and because the Office has not

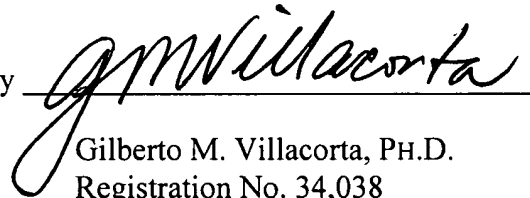
demonstrated such a burden, Applicants respectfully request that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 30, 2006

By



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